

to 18–20-year-olds. This bipartisan amendment was the culmination of young activists of all political parties and backgrounds coming together to fight for their democratic right.

It was reported that some in Washington called the effort a “children’s crusade.” But those naysayers quickly learned one of Washington’s most important lessons: never doubt America’s youth.

With the proud support of California’s former Members of Congress Don Edwards, Jerry Waldie, Pete McCloskey, Ab Mikva and others, the Amendment passed the House 401–19, after Senate approval by a 94–0 vote, and gave more than 10 million 18-to-20-year-olds the right to vote.

Since then, youth activism has remained a driving force to address our nation’s biggest issues. The global climate crisis, gun violence and police brutality have sparked worldwide movements for change led by young organizers.

Half a century after Congress passed the 26th Amendment, young voters face many roadblocks to registering to vote and actually being able to cast their ballots. Many young Americans aren’t educated on how to vote or register to vote, face challenges to voting absentee while studying away from home, and face the burden of having to go to class or work on Election Day.

For young people of color, the challenges are even greater, as the overcriminalization of youth leads to adult felony convictions that bar them from voting in many states, fees that must be paid before voting, and arrests for low-level offenses that deter potential voters from showing up to the voting booth.

H.R. 1, the For The People Act, which the House passed this month, would strengthen the 26th Amendment by requiring online voter registration, making absentee ballots more accessible, sending federal funds for colleges and universities to appoint a “campus vote coordinator” to educate students on how they can vote and improve voter participation on campus, and ensure formerly incarcerated individuals have their right to vote restored when they reenter society. The bill also allows 16- and 17-year-olds to preregister to vote, engaging future voters at a young age to encourage higher participation in the future.

America’s youth are ambassadors to our future. March 23rd is an anniversary to celebrate extraordinary progress made by visionaries whose shoulders we stand on today.

ERICKA CARIAS VALENZUELA

HON. ED PERLMUTTER

OF COLORADO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, March 26, 2021

Mr. PERLMUTTER. Madam Speaker, I rise today to recognize and applaud Ericka Carias Valenzuela for receiving the Arvada Wheat Ridge Service Ambassadors for Youth award.

Ericka Carias Valenzuela is a student at Arvada High School and received this award because her determination and hard work have allowed her to overcome adversities.

The dedication demonstrated by Ericka Carias Valenzuela is exemplary of the type of

achievement that can be attained with hard work and perseverance. It is essential students at all levels strive to make the most of their education and develop a work ethic which will guide them for the rest of their lives.

I extend my deepest congratulations to Ericka Carias Valenzuela for winning the Arvada Wheat Ridge Service Ambassador for Youth award. I have no doubt she will exhibit the same dedication and character in all of her future accomplishments.

HONORING BARBARA HACKMAN

HON. GREG PENCE

OF INDIANA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, March 26, 2021

Mr. PENCE. Madam Speaker, I rise today to honor Barbara Hackman of my hometown of Columbus, Indiana. Barb served as the Republican County Chairwoman of Bartholomew County for eight years. She committed her time, talents and energy to the Sixth Congressional District and the rest of the Hoosier state. I am grateful for her service.

Barb is always willing to lend a helping hand to her community, but her priority is her family—her husband of 45 years, their daughters, and six beautiful grandchildren.

Finally, Barb is a dear friend to the Pence family. We are all grateful for her friendship throughout the years.